

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, July 1, 2005*

## MPDC ASSUMING MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL SECURITY IN DC

Effective July 1, management responsibility for school safety in DC Public Schools is being transferred to the MPDC. School safety will continue to be carried out by a combination of contract security personnel and MPDC School Resource Officers. A new school security contract — developed in partnership by DCPS and the MPDC, and managed by the Police Department — includes a number of reforms designed to enhance the quality of security services. For example, the contract establishes minimum training requirements for all security personnel working in the schools and requires the vendor, Hawk One Security, to administer a test of basic security skills. The contract also establishes integrity and performance standards for personnel, including pre-employment and random drug screening. And in an attempt to attract and retain a more mature and professional guard force, Hawk One will pay the guards approximately \$1 more an hour than guards were paid under the previous contract. The new school security contract was developed with strong input from the community and includes a number of provisions recommended by the community, including changing the uniform from the “soft look” of coat-and-tie to the “hard look” of a traditional security uniform with patches and a badge. During the 2004-05 school year, the MPDC had 99 SROs and 14 supervisors assigned to DC public schools. School safety within the MPDC is being overseen by a new Office of Security Services, headed by Assistant Chief Gerald Wilson.

- ① For a list of general resources on school safety, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/schoolsafety>

## MPDC SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR POLICE CADET PROGRAM

The MPDC's Cadet Program provides educational and on-the-job training to qualified, recent graduates of DC high schools who are interested in becoming Metropolitan Police officers. The Department is continuing to seek applicants for the program. For young people in DC, the program offers both educational and career benefits. During the two-year program, cadets complete an associate's degree at the University of the District of Columbia and work part-time (30 hours per week) in various job assignments within the MPDC. Recently, the starting salary for cadets has been increased to \$28,299. The program also helps cadets develop the analytical thinking skills required to meet the challenges of policing in the 21st century. For the MPDC, the Cadet Program helps to ensure that there is a steady pool of DC youth who meet the Department's new entrance requirements of two years of college. The program also means that prospective members of the MPDC will be drawn from the communities that the Department serves. Cadet applicants must be DC residents and must possess a diploma or GED from a DC high school. Upon completion of the program, cadets must pass the MPDC's entrance exam for police officers, and they must agree to stay with the MPDC for at least a time period equivalent to their education and training.

- ① For details, visit:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/cadet>

## SUMMER CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING BEGINS

With summer in full swing, the MPDC is once again stepping up its drunk driving enforcement efforts. Starting in July, the MPDC will be conducting at least one sobriety checkpoint a week, covering communities throughout DC. These regular sobriety checkpoints are part of the regional “Checkpoint Strikeforce” initiative, which resulted in the arrest of thousands of drunk drivers in DC and surrounding states last year. This year’s initiative is paying particular attention to the problem of underage drinking and driving. DC law has a “zero tolerance” approach to underage drinking and driving: drivers under the age of 21 with any measurable amount of alcohol are arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated. In addition to the regional program, the MPDC is participating in the national “Stop Impaired Driving” public information campaign. To complement enforcement efforts, public service advertisements will target 21-34 year-old males, the demographic group most likely to drive impaired.

## SUMMER IS A GOOD TIME TO PRACTICE BURGLARY PREVENTION

With many of us enjoying outdoor activities this summer, the chances of getting careless — and giving burglars an opportunity to strike — are, unfortunately, increased. With the warm weather, both homeowners and apartment dwellers may be tempted to leave their doors unlocked or their windows open. Common excuses are that they are going outside for “only a few minutes” or they will “only be in the backyard.” But it only takes a few minutes for a burglar to enter a home through an unlocked door or an open window. Throughout the year, but especially during the summer, residents are reminded to have good locks installed on their doors — and to use them all the time, especially when they leave their homes. Even if you’re only going outside to mow the lawn or do some work in the yard, you should lock your front door and take your key. Ground-floor windows should be closed and locked when residents leave their homes, and window locks are recommended on all windows at all times. In addition, homeowners should keep ladders secured — preferably in a locked garage — at all times. Some burglars have been known to use a resident’s ladder to enter a second-story window. Most of all, residents are encouraged to look out for one another and call the police if they seem anything suspicious.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Talk with Chief Ramsey Next Week.** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls during two upcoming media appearances: from 4-5 pm on Wednesday, July 6, on News Channel 8; and from 10-11 am on Thursday, July 7, on WTOP Radio’s “Ask the Chief” program.

**Shorter Curfew Hours Begin.** Starting today, though August 31, teen curfew starts at 12:01 am, seven days a week. Get more information at <http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3249>.

**New Photo Enforcement Cameras Activated.** The 30-day warning period for the new photo radar and red-light cameras begins July 1; tickets will be issued for violations captured after July 31. Details at <http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3254>.

① For details on the national campaign, visit:  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/StopImpaired>

① DC has tough drunk driving laws, including a BAC standard of .08, and new technology and resources to combat the problem of drunk driving. Details on drunk driving prevention in DC are at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>

① For a complete list of burglary prevention tips:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/burglary>

① Traveling this summer? Make sure you install light timers, have your mail and newspapers picked up, and take other steps to make your home look “lived in” while you are gone.

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	<b>as of 7/1/05</b>
♦ 2005: 87	
♦ 2004: 90	
♦ % Change: -3.3%	
♦ Closure Rate: 52.9% (46 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>week end. 6/25/05</b>
♦ Total: 1,003	
♦ Drugs: 182	
♦ Weapons: 28	
♦ Motor Vehicle Theft: 19	
♦ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 46	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	<b>week end. 6/25/05</b>
♦ Arrests: 74	
♦ Curfew Violations: 106	
♦ Truants: 0	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	<b>as of 6/29/05</b>
♦ June: 128	
♦ 2005 Total: 1,203	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>as of 7/1/05</b>
♦ 2005: 20	
♦ 2004: 28	
♦ % Change: --23.1%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC’s Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**